Types of Assessments

Robert Kelly

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Theresa Melenas

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The following is a description of the different types of assessments used by educators in teaching.

Formative Assessment – I would describe this as a tool to be used to see if the student(s) are understanding the material that is being presented to them. It would be done on the day of the instruction in the form of just asking questions as you teach. Another way of assessing if you are effectively teaching the material and they are understanding it is to look at their faces. Are they looking confused? You can also be asking one-on-one questions to students.

Summative Assessment – This type of assessment is given at the end of the teaching a chapter, a mid-term or at the marking period. I would describe this type of assessment as being one that tells the teacher and the student if the student understood the material and was able to demonstrate that understanding by successfully passing a test or examination.

Authentic Assessment – This would be an assessment that requires the student to an oral interview, do an experiment and demonstrate it, or maybe provide a portfolio. Another authentic description would be the teacher conducting an observation of the student.

Performance-Based: restricted and extended – A description of this type of assessment would be maybe building something or playing a sport. Restricted performance based assessment could be something like learning to throw a baseball the correct way to home plate or swinging the bat to hit the ball. Extended performance would be actually playing in a baseball game and striking someone out or hitting a home run.

Selected-response assessments are composed of a series of questions or statements (items) that the students must answer. A description of this type of assessment would be a true-false tests, a multiple choice test or a matching test.

Supply-response assessment is where the student is required to supply or construct their own responses and answers. A description of this type of assessment would be a test that requires them to fill in the blank, give a short answer or write an essay in response to a topic.

Norm-referenced assessment is the process of evaluating (and grading) the learning of students by judging (and ranking) them against the performance of their peers. A description of this type of assessment would be the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. This assessment is given to 3rd and 4th Grade in the areas of English and math. It ranks them against their peers as well as other schools in the State.

Criterion-Referenced Assessment – I think a good description of this type of assessment is when a teacher gives an examination on the material that was presented during a given time period.